

Re: Meeting w Sen. Brown's office

From: "Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR" <christine.connell@international.gc.ca>
To: "Comartin, Joseph -DTROT -HOM/CDM" <joseph.comartin@international.gc.ca>, Dan Ujcz
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Date: Sat, 12 Feb 2022 12:59:43 +0000

Joe and Dan,

With many thanks to Stefano for arranging and swiftly reporting this meeting on a very busy (and long) day please see readout below. The last sentence on how US interlocutors can help is on point.

Around the same time as this meeting was in progress Cleveland area media began reporting that Ford's assembly plant in Avon Lake will be shut through the week of Feb 14 (1600 workers); although for multiple reasons in addition to blockade disruptions.

Senator Brown's quote in article linked here references contact with the Embassy and seems to indicate responsiveness to our messaging on presenting a united front.

"The truckers protesting are not just obstructing supply chains – they are affecting the livelihoods of millions of workers in the auto industry in the U.S. and Canada. Canadian officials should take all necessary and appropriate measures to reopen traffic so that we can continue to grow our economy," Brown said in a statement.

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-lorain/ford-ohio-assembly-plant-in-avon-lake-hit-hard-by-protests-at-border-semiconductor-shortage>

~Christine

On Feb 12, 2022, at 7:31 AM, Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR
<Christine.CConnell@international.gc.ca> wrote:

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2022, at 7:29 PM, Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS
<Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca> wrote:

Hi Christine,

Here's a brief readout of the call. Michael Holmes (Public Safety Counsellor) joined me.

Senator Brown's office was interested in hearing the latest on the situation. We pointed to PM Trudeau's remarks earlier today as an indication of the direction the federal government is taking. We also referenced the state of emergency implemented by Premier Ford, and the fact that Mayor Dilkens' request for an injunction was being heard by the courts as we were speaking. Brown's office enquired about the impact of Ontario's emergency declaration; we have followed up with an explanation of the powers afforded to the government under the declaration. The Senator's office was also interested in understanding how the protestors were structured; Michael explained that there is a loose level of coordination but there is no indication of a pure ideological motivation, and no clear leadership.

The Senator's office expressed concerns over the impacts on trade and potential USMCA implications. We noted that the integrated nature of our supply chains meant that any impacts felt by Ohio were equally felt on the Canadian side, and that the government is doing everything possible to remedy the situation. They noted there was certainly a sense on the U.S. side that Canada was not doing enough at first but that, that is no longer the case.

Brown's office asked how they could be helpful. We emphasized the joint nature of the issue—including how American support and funds have fuelled the convoys—and said it would be helpful if we could all speak with a united front about the harm that the protests are doing to citizens on both sides.

Hope you get to have a restful weekend!

Stefano